

Affidavit of Publication

STATE OF NORTH DAKOTA,
COUNTY OF MERCER, ss.

I, Jenna Cowan being first duly sworn, on oath says, that she is the bookkeeper of the THE HAZEN STAR, a weekly newspaper published in Hazen, County of Mercer, and has full and personal knowledge of all the facts herein stated; that said newspaper is a legal newspaper and has a bona fide circulation of at least two hundred copies weekly, and has been published within said county for fifty-two successive weeks next prior to the publication of the notice herein mentioned; that the

Final Release of Reclamation Bond

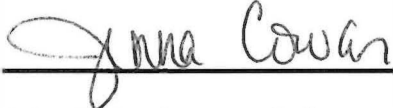
Coteau Properties

a printed copy of which, taken from the paper in which same was published, is attached to this sheet, and is made a part of this Affidavit, was published in said

newspaper at least once each week for 4 successive week, on the day of each week on which said newspaper was regularly published to-wit:

3 - Hazen Star: 10/31/2024, 11/7/2024, 11/14/2024,
11/21/2024

That the full amount of the fees for the publication of the annexed notice is: \$ 833.52



Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11/21/2024



Arden Pahl, Notary Public
State of South Dakota

My commission expires August 1, 2025



NOTICE OF FILING FOR FINAL RELEASE OF RECLAMATION BOND

The Coteau Properties Company has completed surface coal mining and reclamation operations, and has filed an application for final bond release on approximately 378 acres of land in Mercer County, with 218.3 acres located in the SW ¼ and NE ¼ of Section 29, T145N, R87W (Tract 1), and 159.3 acres located in the SE ¼ of Section 29, T145N, R87W (Tract 2), as indicated on the enclosed map. Of this total, approximately 205 acres have been affected by mining. This land is included in Surface Coal Mining Permit NACT-1801, approved by the North Dakota Public Service Commission on February 17, 2021. Prior to being included into Permit NACT - 1801, this tract was originally in Surface Coal Mine Permit NACT - 8503, approved in 1986. Coteau must demonstrate reclamation or revegetation success in order to achieve final bond release. This permit area is bonded in consolidation with adjacent mining permits for an amount totaling \$200 million dollars. Upon approval of this bond release application, The Coteau Properties Company will be released from reclamation liability for all stages (backfilling and grading, soil respreading, vegetation establishment, and final release), but the bond amount will not be reduced due to continued mining and reclamation operations within the consolidated bond area. Following permit approval, initial mining

disturbance in Tract 1 commenced with soil stripping in 1989 and construction of soil stockpiles and water management features. Coal removal began in 1994 and continued through 2005. All coal removed in the southwest and northeast quarter of Section 29 was privately owned. Reclamation began in 2001 after coal removal and continued until 2012 when reclamation of the approximately 171 acres was completed. The SW ¼ and NE ¼ of Section 29, T145N, R87W (Tract 1) is owned by the Coteau Properties Company. The area has been successfully reclaimed to tame pastureland, developed water resources, a conservation tree planting and a portion of section line right-of-way. A Southwest Water tap was installed in the SW ¼ to replace a groundwater spring that was present pre-mining and utilized as a livestock water supply.

Tract 1

Land Use	Acres
Native Rangeland	35.9
Tame Pastureland	177.3
Stock Pond	3.1
Roadway	2.0
Total	218.3

Following permit approval, initial mining disturbance in Tract 2 commenced with soil stripping in 1989 and construction of soil stockpiles and water management features. While no coal was removed in the SE ¼ of Section

29, portions were affected by mining related disturbances. Reclamation of approximately 34.1 acres began and was completed in 2007. The SE ¼ of Section 29, T145N, R87W (Tract 2) is privately owned. The area has been successfully reclaimed to tame pastureland, and developed water resources.

Tract 2

Land Use	Acres
Native Rangeland	34.4
Tame Pastureland	32.6
Cropland	88.0
Stock Pond	1.5
Roadway	2.8
Total	159.3

Written comments, objections, or requests for an informal conference or public hearing on this bond release may be submitted by any person having a valid legal interest which is or may be adversely affected by this action, to the North Dakota Public Service Commission, 600 East Boulevard Avenue, Department 408, Bismarck, ND 58505-0480, within 30 days after the last publication of this notice. Any request for an informal conference or hearing should be in writing to the Commission, and must state specifically the issues or objections that an affected party has regarding this bond release.

The Coteau Properties Company
204 County Road 15
Beulah, North Dakota 58523

